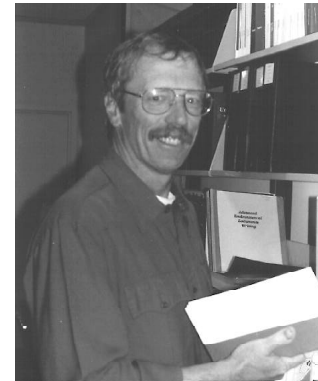




# The Bureau of Land Management in WYOMING

*This report to the public features employees of the Bureau of Land Management throughout Wyoming. We are your friends and neighbors working to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.*



Jim Roseberry - Resource Advisor



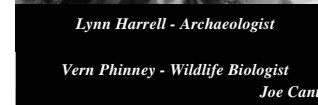
Sheri Morris-Printing Specialist



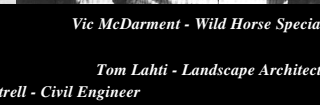
Lynn Harrell - Archaeologist



Vic McDarment - Wild Horse Specialist

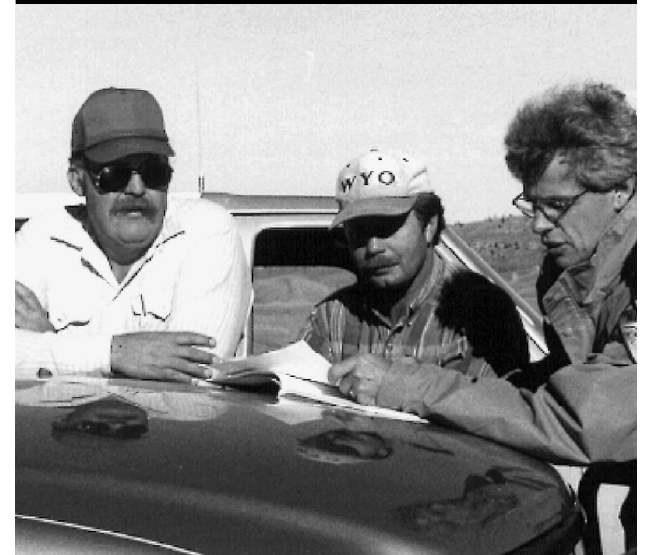


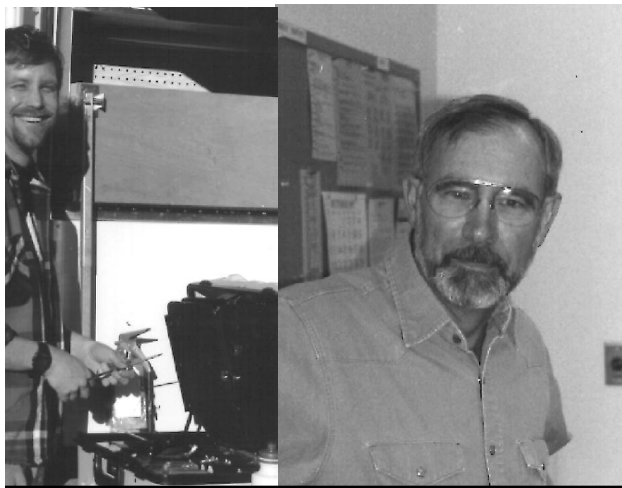
Vern Phinney - Wildlife Biologist



Tom Lahti - Landscape Architect

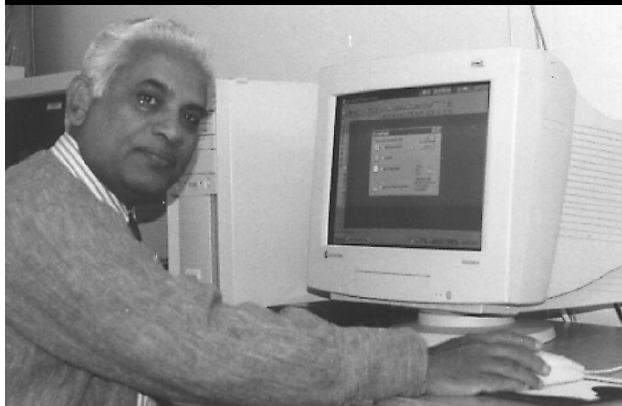
Joe Cantrell - Civil Engineer





avage - Electronics Technician

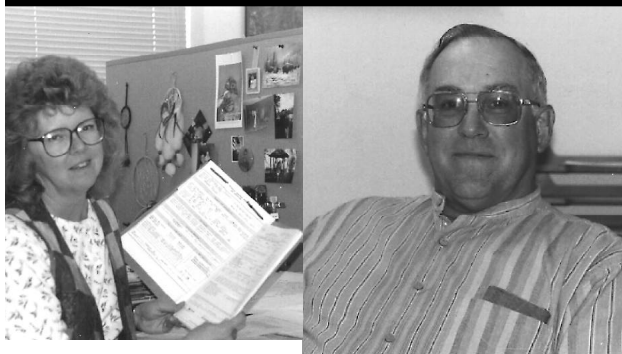
Dave Pomerinke - Field Manager



Asghar Shariff - Supervisory Geologist

ley Peele - Land Law Examiner

Roger Inman - Resource Advisor



## Wild & Free

### Fish and Wildlife Habitat

- 18,273,036 acres big game habitat
- 18,388,670 acres small game habitat
- 94,756 waterfowl acres
- 92,256 acres riparian/wetland
- 2,752 miles of fishable streams
- 9.9 million acres managed through habitat management plans
- 10 fish habitat improvement projects
- 132 wetland/riparian habitat improvement projects built; 110 projects maintained
- 29 upland habitat development projects completed
- 17,000 acres of controlled burning completed

### Threatened and Endangered Species

- 1 threatened and 2 endangered mammals
- 2 threatened and 3 endangered birds
- 1 endangered amphibian
- 5 endangered fish
- 1 threatened plant species
- 3 candidate plant species
- 1 candidate fish species
- 1 candidate bird species
- 1 candidate amphibian
- 1 candidate mammal
- 29 draft BLM sensitive plants
- 18 draft BLM watch plants

### Wild Horses

- 2,116 horses gathered
- 1,433 removed from the range
- 1,016 horses adopted
- 417 horses shipped to other states for adoption

### Wilderness

- 577,504 acres in 42 areas studied under the Wyoming Wilderness Review
- 240,364 acres in 21 areas recommended for wilderness designation
- 337,140 acres are not recommended for wilderness designation
- 2 public tours conducted through 2 WSAs in the Bighorn Basin Resource Area

## On the Landscape

### Rangeland Management

- 18,120,000 acres of public rangeland
- 3,077 grazing operators
- 2,507 cattle operators
- 306 sheep operators
- 264 horse operators
- 1,235,287 AUMs authorized
- 635,174 AUMs cattle authorized
- 74,032 AUMs sheep authorized
- 4,603 AUMs horses authorized
- 802,063 AUMs of authorized nonuse
- 312 allotments under AMPs

### Forestry

- 210,000 acres commercial forestland
- 211,000 acres woodland (noncommercial)
- 1,604,850 board feet sold for \$58,519.25
- 165,000 board feet offered for sale but not sold
- 1,203 public use authorizations valued at \$26,580.89 for 462 cords of fuelwood, 245 board feet of posts and poles, 646 Christmas trees and wildlings, 1,030 pounds of seeds

### Range Improvements

- 200.7 miles of fence constructed
- 69 miles of pipeline installed
- 66 water developments completed
- 19,965 acres of controlled burning completed
- 3,471 acres of weed control
- 6,940 acres seeded
- 14 cattle guards installed
- 3,130 acres of sagebrush chemical controlled
- 3 erosion control structures
- 6 pump systems

### Forest Development

- 145 acres prepared for reforestation
- 60 acres reforested (planted) with trees
- 142 acres pre-commercially thinned
- 2 acres of stand conversion

### Noxious Weed Management

- Continued cooperative agreements with counties on chemical and biological control of weeds
- Established private contracts for chemical weed control
- Collected and released several thousand insects for biological control efforts on Leafy spurge and Dalmation toadflax
- 3 challenge cost share grants received from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- 2 BLM Districts are under a certified weed-free forage program
- Continued intensive inventory efforts in selected areas

## Underground Activities

### Minerals, Leasable - Coal

- Wyoming produced 278,424,956 tons, of which about 94% came from the Powder River Basin. Federal leases in Wyoming produced 248,866,650 tons, or 89% of Wyoming's total coal production. Royalties of \$176.7 million were equally split between Wyoming and the Federal treasury. An estimated 97% of Wyoming coal is used to generate electricity in 19 states.
- The North Rochelle LBA (Triton Coal) sold to Triton Coal Company who submitted a bid of \$30,576,340 (\$20,632.78 per acre) for an estimated 157.6 million tons of minable coal.
- 5 Leases by Application (LBAs) are being processed
  - Powder River Coal (Peabody) for an estimated 515 million tons
  - Thundercloud (Kerr-McGee) for an estimated 427 million tons
  - Ark Minerals (Arch) for an estimated 100 million tons in Carbon County
  - Horse Creek (Antelope Coal Company) for an estimated 177.5 million tons
  - Belle Ayr (Cyprus Amax) for an estimated 200 million tons
- The Evergreen Enterprises LBA for an estimated 675 million tons was not approved by the RCT for processing.
- 3 coal lease sales planned in 1998

### Minerals, Leasable - Trona

- 5 underground trona operations produced about 18 million tons
- Approximately \$19.3 million in royalties were paid on Federal sodium leases



*Duane Feick - Realty Specialist*



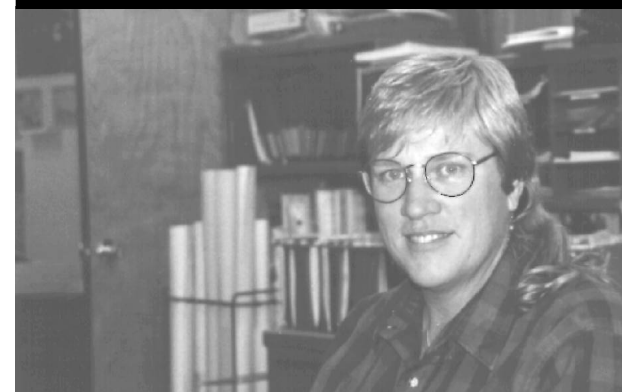
*Michael Bies - Archaeologist*



*Jayne Doyle - Environmental Protection Specialist*



*Tammy Hammack - Printing Technician*



*Krystal Clair - Outdoor Recreation Planner*



**Nottage - Aviation Management Specialist**



**Craig Wood - Records Administrator**



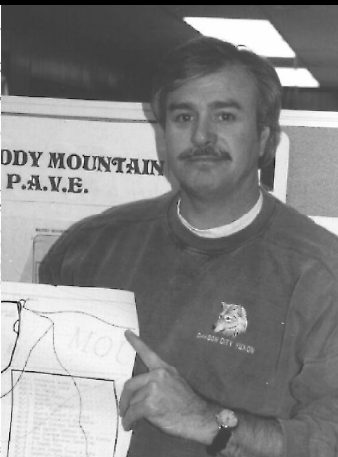
**Ed Martinez - Cartographic Technician**



**Gerald Jech - Natural Resource Specialist**

**Role - Resource Information Specialist**

**Rod Sanders - Outdoor Recreation Planner**



## Minerals - Oil and Gas

- 18,721 Federal leases cover 12,442,232 acres
- 43,127,558 barrels of oil and 486,492,591 cubic feet of gas generating \$159,675,604 in oil and gas royalties from leases and associated units; half goes to the State of Wyoming
- 1,747 parcels offered, 1,115,701 acres in 1,208 parcels leased, with bonus bids amounting to \$20,687,486 in bimonthly competitive oral bid lease sales. The highest per acre bid for a single parcel was \$1,450.
- 374 noncompetitive leases were issued on 431,626 acres
- 583 new hole starts versus 266 a year earlier
- 445 oil and gas well completions compared to 215 a year earlier
- 47 active rigs compared to 35 a year earlier
- 527 exploratory/secondary unit agreements
- 1,298 communitization agreements

## Minerals - Bentonite and Uranium

- 1.9 million pounds of yellow cake produced from 2 in-situ recovery operations. Over 90% of the uranium was produced from patented and unpatented mining claims.
- 4.2 million tons of bentonite produced by 11 companies

## Minerals - Salable

- 134 sales of sand, stone, gravel, scoria, pumice, cinders and clay earned \$237,371 on 454,000 cubic yards of mineral material
- 59 authorizations under the free use permits for local governments and nonprofit groups provided 204,087 cubic yards of material valued at \$137,948
- 61 community pit and common use area sales earned \$49,349 on 48,518 yards of material

## Minerals - Locatable

- 2 mineral patents issued for 314.67 acres
- 2,292 new claims recorded
- 1,142 claims closed
- 14,714 claim rentals processed at \$100 per claim
- 650 claims covered by 245 small miner waivers
- 16,471 active claims on record for all mineral commodities
- 253,512 active and closed unpatented mining claims on record
- 119 Notices of Intent to Lease filed on Stockraising Homestead Act land
- \$1,731,365 total fees received for mining claim recordation

## User Facilities

### Recreation

- 2,902 acres developed into 43 sites
- 151 picnic units
- 252 camping units
- 5 national historic trails
- 1 national scenic trail
- 1 national recreation trail
- 5 other historic trails
- 2 interpretive trails
- 80 other trails for a total of 2,527 miles including:
  - 29 nonmotorized trails
  - 15 motorized trails
  - 36 special trails
- 3 national back country byways
- 32 caves

## Environmental Concerns

### Hazardous Materials Management

- Completed the Comprehensive Assessment for Safety, Health and the Environment program at all Wyoming BLM offices, the first state to complete the program
- 4 illegal hazardous materials dump sites cleaned
- All Wyoming hazardous materials specialists recertified
- 1 pilot inventory project/draft report on abandoned mines in the South Pass area completed
- 3 Environmental Site Assessments for hazardous materials on lands and realty related projects completed
- Continued to promote bioremediation of oil and gas spill sites with industry

### Soils Resources Program

- 17,100,000 acres of public land surveyed to date for soil characteristics
- 2 soil survey enhancement projects using GIS and satellite imagery continued in the Rock Springs and Rawlins Districts to update older soil surveys and provide data for land use planning projects

### Air Quality

- 3 Acid Rain Deposition monitoring stations operated as a part of cooperative national study
- BLM participated, with representatives from industry and other agencies, in the Green River Basin Visibility Study Steering Committee to characterize visual air quality
- BLM participated in the Governor's Air Quality Technical Forum to develop meteorological and emissions data bases and contribute \$40,000 to the air quality impact analysis model for southwest Wyoming

### Water Resources Program

- 150 water rights filed
- 7 stream gaging and water quality stations operated in the Muddy and Red Creek watersheds to monitor the effectiveness of management activities in improving water quality and reducing salt mobilization
- Continued the Powder River Basin hydrology study to characterize potential surface and groundwater conditions associated with energy development

## Looking Back

### National Historic Trails

- 5 congressionally designated National Historic Trails: Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, Pony Express, and Nez Perce
- 4 National Historic Trails have over 60% of the mileage (over 340 miles per trail) in the state under BLM stewardship: Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express
- Wyoming contains some of the best intact trail remains left in the country along the 2,000 mile national historic trail corridor. Some of the major sites include: Devil's Gate, Split Rock, South Pass, Parting-of-the-Ways, Bessemer Bend, Martin's Cove, and Lombard Ferry.
- Wyoming BLM has a stake in managing regionally significant historic trails including the Cheyenne to Deadwood Stage Route, Overland, Bozeman, Cherokee, and Bridger trails.



Joe Behm - Lead Support Services Supervisor



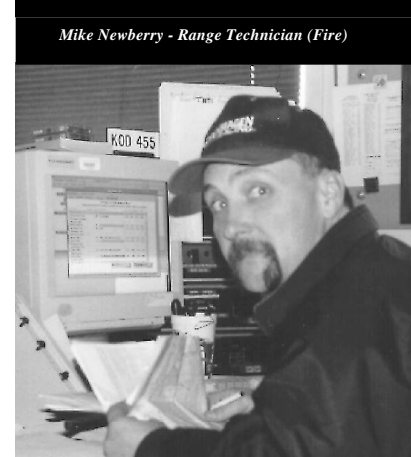
Jamie Sellar-Baker - Natural Resources Specialist



Chet Wheelless - Fisheries Biologist



Rodney Randall - Environmental Specialist



Mike Newberry - Range Technician (Fire)



Kate Padilla - Resource Specialist



Renner - Supervisory Range Technician (Fire)

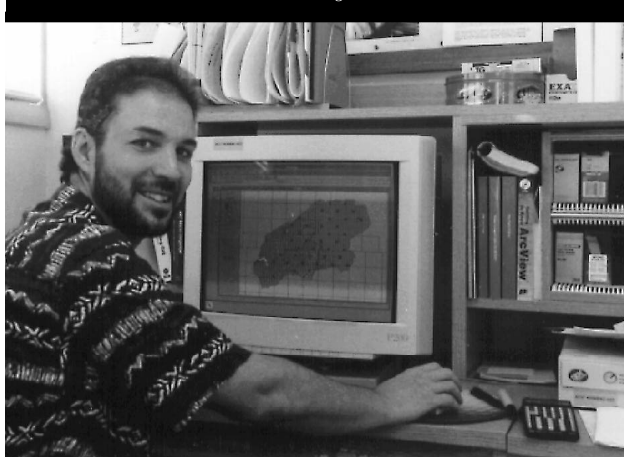
Robin Nelson - Cartographic Technician



Russell - Physical Science Technician

Phil Weber - Engineering Equipment Operator

Don Judice - Petroleum Engineer



## Cultural and Paleontology Resources

- 119,286 acres surveyed at the Class III level (intensive inventory)
- 1,669 actions occurring on BLM administered lands
- 2,675 cultural properties recorded
- 310 properties determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- 1,906 properties avoided
- 65 cultural resource use permits in effect during the year
- 10 documented violations of a Federal law or statute protecting archaeological properties
- 36 paleontological resources use permits administered in Wyoming
- 19 paleontological resources use permits administered in Montana, Idaho, and Nevada were assisted

## Support Functions

### Cadastral Survey

- 201 miles of survey and 310 monuments set in the Powder River Basin (88 townships comprising 2,019,200 Powder River Basin acres have been resurveyed since 1986)
- 160 miles of survey and 233 monuments set outside of the Powder River Basin
- 175 miles of survey and 127 monuments set for USFS/BLM MOU surveys
- 37 miles of survey and 114 monuments set for the Bureau of Indian Affairs
- 4 mineral surveys and 22 plats completed

### Sign Program

- 16,700 signs constructed for 52 BLM offices throughout the country

## Law Enforcement

- Investigated several minerals theft cases
- Ongoing investigation of theft of paleontological resources removed illegally from public lands
- Investigation and convictions of illegal signing and unlawful enclosures on public land denying lawful public access
- Individuals cited for wild horse violations and one convicted of abuse sentenced to jail
- BLM rangers continued on-the-ground contact and assistance to public land users, including county sheriffs during search and rescue operations

## Easement Acquisition

- 6 public access easements for roads and range improvements acquired

## Geographic Information System/Mapping Science

- Coordinated data exchanges with numerous public and private entities
- Provided aerial photography and image acquisition assistance for Federal, State, local and private customers
- Completed 80 percent of the conversion of GCDB to Auto Cad and then to ARCINFO

## Fire Management

- 67 wildfires burned 3,007 acres
- 35 prescribed burns totalling 19,965 acres were completed on public lands to support forestry site preparation, and rangeland and wildlife habitat improvement

## Geographic Coordinate Data Base

- Provided GCDB data for 78,597 townships to 249 users
- GCDB data set information is available on the Internet at <http://wgiac.state.wy.us>



## Construction/Maintenance/Engineering

- 69 buildings/yard facilities maintained
- 80 major recreation sites maintained
- 850 miles of BLM road maintained
- 25 miles of BLM road surfaced with gravel
- 3 major dam structure condition surveys completed
- 2-mile long hiking trail constructed at Martin's Cove

## Volunteer Program

- 888 volunteers contributed 27,099 hours valued at \$319,497

## Planning & Actions

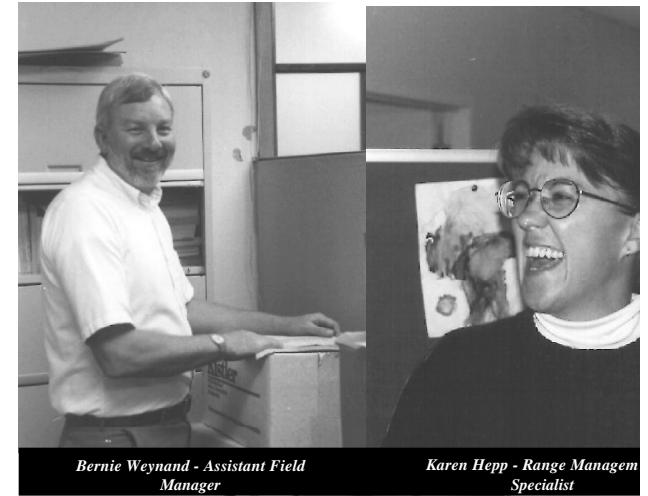
### Land Use Planning and Environmental Coordination

- The Green River RMP was signed by the State Director in August and the Record of Decision was distributed to the public in October.
- Responses to protests on the Proposed Grass Creek RMP were prepared and submitted to the Washington Office for processing (issuance of ROD and approved RMP imminent).
- The second draft EIS for Newcastle RMP is scheduled for release in early 1998.
- EAs for amending the Great Divide RMP (for the Carbon Basin coal planning decisions and the Shirley Mountain ORV designation changes) are in preparation for public distribution, review, and comment.

- Rangeland Standards and Guidelines are complete. Maintenance of all BLM land use plans in Wyoming is underway to incorporate into them the Wyoming standards for healthy rangelands and guidelines for livestock grazing.
- The compilation phase of the Southwest Wyoming evaluation of oil and gas development is nearly complete. Data will be analyzed in FY 98 resulting in recommendations to address future development needs.
- Environmental analyses were completed for: Cave Gulch Natural Gas Development, North Rochelle Coal Lease, and Sea West Wind Energy Project.
- Environmental analyses are underway for: Jonah Field II Natural Gas Development, Continental Divide/Greater Wamsutter II Natural Gas Development Project, South Baggs Natural Gas Infill Development, South Gillette Coal Bed Methane Development Assessment Area, North Antelope/Rochelle and Thundercloud Coal Lease By Application, Antelope Coal Horse Creek Tract, Greybull Valley Irrigation Project.

### Lands

- 349.19 acres in 3 parcels sold for \$76,200.00
- 736 rights-of-way and amendments issued
- 8,239.22 acres of public land exchanged for 3,708.69 acres of private land
- 289.37 acres in 2 Recreation & Public Purposes Act actions patented
- 27 permits/leases issued
- 9 patents issued for BIA (1) and USFS (8)
- 200.00 acres in 2 parcels sold in Nebraska



*Bernie Weynand - Assistant Field Manager*

*Karen Hepp - Range Management Specialist*



*Cheryl Hicks - Range Management Specialist*

*Karie Hilt - Secretary*

*Angelina Pryich - Writer/Editor*





Dave Wolfe - Sign Painter



Mike Karbs - Field Manager



rsaville Nading - Clerk  
(Stay in School)



Shirley Bye-Jech - Outdoor Recreation  
Planner

Blank - Land Law Examiner

Kelly Lamborn - Land Law Examiner



## 1997 Highlights

### Highlights

- Sales, exchanges, and other actions resulted in 15,596.96 fewer acres of public land in Wyoming and 200.00 fewer acres of public land in Nebraska.
- The Green River Basin Advisory Committee submitted a final report to the Secretary of the Interior in February 1997, with recommendations to promote continued oil and gas development while protecting environmental values in the greater Green River Basin in southwest Wyoming.
- The Joint Oil/Gas and Trona Development Industry Group was formed to develop coexistence strategies for both industries. The objective is to provide a basis to resolve or prevent conflicts and provide reasonable assurance that multiple mineral extraction can be optimized safely, fairly, and economically.
- A large scale habitat enhancement project is being conducted at Moxa Arch in southwestern Wyoming as part of a cooperative effort to mitigate industrial development in the region.
- Conducted public scoping and inventories for the on-the-ground designation of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.
- Developed an interpretive trail at Martin's Cove, a historic site along the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail. The trail received 60,000 visitors in 1997.
- Participated in the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail Sesquicentennial Celebration. Held dedication ceremonies at two new interpretive sites, Martin's Cove and Simpson's Hollow. Issued a statewide permit for the Mormon Trail Wagon Train. At least 250,000 visitor days were recorded.
- The BLM/UW GPS base station serves an increasing

number of Federal, State, local government, and private sector users with high quality GPS base data. The base station will be upgraded by the end of 1997 with a new computer and data access via the Internet.

- Completed Native American consultation on Cedar Ridge. The site is being evaluated as an eligible Traditional Cultural Property.
- Launched Wyoming Project Archaeology. One facilitator workshop, four teacher workshops and three mini-workshops were held to introduce teachers and other educators to this innovative archaeology education curriculum.
- Discovered three prehistoric housepit sites dating to 6600 in the Jonah Field. These are the oldest known housepits in the State. Found two Folsom points in the Jonah Field and identified sacred areas through consultation with several Native American tribes.
- Donated some 400 surplus computers to the Wyoming Department of Education for distribution to schools throughout the state.



## Looking Forward

### Looking ahead to 1998:

- Propose revised oil and gas regulations designed to simplify public understanding and use, and to streamline compliance for oil and gas operations on public lands.
- Complete on-the-ground designation for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail on BLM Wyoming (approximately 200 miles).
- Plan the celebration of the Sesquicentennial of the California National Historic Trail in 1999 to include a wagon train, guided tours, information packets and news stories.
- Upgrade the Bessemer Bend interpretive site along the Oregon, California, Mormon and Pony Express National Historic Trails.
- Survey isolated parcels in the Snake River Valley to identify public lands to resolve issues such as public access, trespass, recreation and wildlife habitat management.
- Conduct four teacher workshops in 1998 as part of Wyoming Project Archaeology.
- Develop recommendations on interpretive and protective issues for Miner's Delight with classes in the American Studies Program at UW. Complete a historic context of the site as well. The Lander Resource Area will test the site in 1998 to support future cabin stabilizations.
- Initiate Rangeland Standards and Grazing Guidelines approved by the Secretary of the Interior following much public input.
- Initiate Automated Land and Minerals Records (ALMRS) in Wyoming.
- Complete environmental impact statement on the proposed Jonah II natural gas field.

## Economic Impacts

### 1997 PILT Payments

| County      | Payment   | County     | Payment     |
|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Albany      | \$441,004 | Natrona    | 938,905     |
| Big Horn    | 322,170   | Niobrara   | 90,451      |
| Campbell    | 234,286   | Park       | 553,307     |
| Carbon      | 372,887   | Platte     | 77,056      |
| Converse    | 215,962   | Sheridan   | 274,345     |
| Crook       | 32,203    | Sublette   | 233,474     |
| Fremont     | 774,223   | Sweetwater | 863,835     |
| Goshen      | 19,805    | Teton      | 312,489     |
| Hot Springs | 222,102   | Uinta      | 403,938     |
| Johnson     | 261,966   | Washakie   | 328,412     |
| Laramie     | 7,098     | Weston     | 141,334     |
| Lincoln     | 344,289   |            |             |
|             |           | Total      | \$7,465,541 |

### BLM Wyoming salaries by community

|          |             |              |             |
|----------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Buffalo  | \$1,016,695 | Lander       | \$1,371,823 |
| Casper   | \$3,872,332 | Newcastle    | \$635,950   |
| Cheyenne | \$8,783,497 | Pinedale     | \$865,834   |
| Cody     | \$761,055   | Rawlins      | \$3,369,274 |
| Gillette | \$217,067   | Rock Springs | \$3,390,843 |
| Kemmerer | \$951,648   | Worland      | \$3,310,971 |

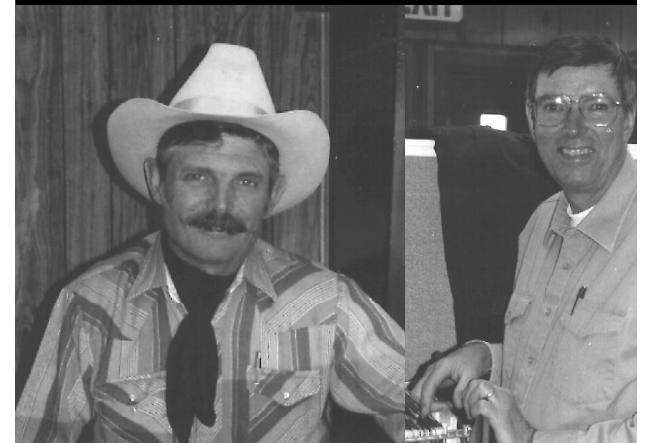
Total Salaries \$28,546,989

Total Funding \$45,871,000



*Renee Dana - Resource Advisor*

*Terry Del Bene - Archaeologist*



*Mick Kaser - Realty Specialist*

*Gale Long - Petroleum Engineering Technician*

*Reo Buckingham - Purchasing Agent*



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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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**OFFICIAL BUSINESS**  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

BLM/WY/GI-98/006+1820